what are the details thereof; if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action has been taken to prevent the recurring of such thefts cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Cement decontrol

366. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cement manufacturers in the country have urged the central Government to decontrol cement; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken or proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Cement Manufacturers' Association have represented to the Central Government seeking decontrol of Cement.

(b) At present, the question of total decontrol of cement is not being considered by Government. However, in the wake of introduction of partial decontrol of cement in February 1982, Government have been constantly reviewing its policy, keeing in view the growth of Industry. Pursuant to this policy, it has been Government's endeavour to reduce the levy obligation in a gradual manner so that the Industry is allowed to sell higher quantities of cement in the open market, which would help them in generating more funds for further investment and modernisation. In fact, such a reduction in the levy obligaton has been allowed thrice in the past—on 18th July, 1984, 4th June, 1985 and again on 15th, December, 1986 Recently, the levy quota of new units commencing production on or after 1.4.86 has been further reduced from the existing levy of 30 per cent to 15 per cent of actual production w.e.f. 1.3.1987.

Expansion of production capacity of DGTD units

367. SHRI KISHORE MEHTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY, be pleased to state:

(a) what provision has been made for automatic expansion of production capacity of D.G.T.D. registered units; and

(b) what is the procedure laid down for a DGTD unit already located in a metropolitan zone and needing substantial expansion or modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The units registered with DGTD are free to expand their capacity for production of goods for which they are registered if such expansion is covered by exemption from industrial licensing. They can get such expanded capacity registered with DGTD.

(b) If a unit which was registered with DGTD is located in a standard urban area, he has to obtain a COB licence. However, in regard to substantial expansion, diversification and endorsement of capacity, D.G.T.D. have been registering such cases in relaxation of the policy stated above, under the provisions of Govt. Press Note dated 20-4-80.